

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-10 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 /080 W

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R 271259Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2687

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4343

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB CG US

SUBJECT: MOBUTU AND AALC

1. WHILE IN KINSHASA PAT O'FARRELL HAD MEETING BOTH WITH POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER KIKONGI DI MWINSA LEKULA (SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL WORKERS UNION - UNTZA) AND WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. PETER LOEBARTH, LOCAL AALC REP, ACCOMPANIED.

2. KIKONGI TOLD THEM THAT AT POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING ON PRESIDENTIAL YACHT ON MAY 8-9 MOBUTU HAD PROPOSED COMPLETE INCORPORATION OF LABOR MOVEMENT IN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY APPARATUS, TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BY PUTTING ALL UNION LEADERS ON GOVERNMENT PAYROLL AND ELIMINATING DUES CHECK-OFF OF UNION MEMBERS. SUBSEQUENTLY, PRIVATE DISCUSSION KILONGI AND BO-BOLIKO HAD DISSUADED MOBUTU FROM CARRYING OUT PLAN, ARGUING INTER ALIA THAT IT WOULD PUT UNTZA IN SAME STATUS AS UNIONS IN COMMUNIST EASTERN EUROPE WITH DELETERIOUS IMPACT ON ZAIRIAN IMAGE IN ILO AND WITH AFL/CIO.

3. WHEN O'FARREL AND LEOBARTH SAW PRESIDENT MOBUTU PRESIDENT TOLD THEM THAT UNTZA IS "MOST INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA." HE ASKED ABOUT AALC PROGRAM AND WAS TOLD THAT ABOUT \$200 THOUSAND WAS AVAILABLE FOR TRAINING, HEALTH PROGRAMS AND COOPERATIVES. HE ASKED THEM TO INCREASE IT TO \$1 MILLION. THEY POINTED OUT
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PROBLEMS, INCLUDING BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES. EVERYWHERE.

PRESIDENT THEN LAUNCHED INTO DISCOURSE ON INEQUITIES IN WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, SAYING ZAIRE DEPENDED ON MANUFACTURED IMPORTS, PRICES OF WHICH WERE SOARING WHILE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HELD PRICES OF ZAIRE'S EXPORTS OF COFFEE AND COPPER AT LOW LEVELS. HE MENTIONED GM AS HAVING RAISED PRICES AND SAID LONDON AND WASHINGTON'S CONTROL OF RAW MATERIAL PRICES HAD TO END. O'FARRELL SAID OIL SITUATION HAD ALSO COMPLICATED MATTERS AND PRESIDENT SAID "YES" AND US WAS CONCERNED BUT US INTERESTS IN MIDDLE EASTERN PROBLEMS MEANT IN FACT THAT US IGNORED BLACK AFRICA.

4. PRESIDENT WAS MOST CORDIAL, ASKED ABOUT HEALTH OF IRVING BROWN, AND IN GENERAL WAS APPRECIATE OF AALC ACTIVITIES WITH UNTZA.

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